

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 28, 2009. Claims 1 to 16, 18 to 21 and 59 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 20 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 17 to 19 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 to 8, 10 to 16, 20, 21 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,492 (Iwase) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,557 (Kato). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter by adding the features of Claim 17 to each of the pending independent claims and amending the dependent claims to ensure consistency with the amended independent claims. In addition, Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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